

The Latin medieval tradition of the pseudo-Aristotelian *Physiognomonica* and its importance for the Greek source text

This paper will focus on the importance of the Latin medieval translation of the Greek pseudo-Aristotelian *Physiognomonica* and demonstrate why a link between both versions is indispensable in the study of this treatise. The Latin medieval translation is essential for the Greek source text, not only for reconstructing and editing this text, but for the content as well. Firstly, the Latin translation is older than all the extant Greek manuscript. As such, it can provide us with invaluable information about an earlier stage of the manuscript tradition. It is therefore important to include this version in making an edition of the Greek text.

Secondly, on the level of the content, the Latin tradition played an important role in the dissemination of physiognomical thoughts and ideas in the Middle Ages. This text survived in a high number of manuscripts, and was subject to a lot of commentaries. Besides, it gave existence to independent physiognomical treatises as well. It is therefore important to study the shifts in meaning – which are inevitable when making a translation –, to assess how medieval scholars read this Aristotelian text.

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